



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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***Mayor Tom Barrett today released the following statement about the proposed increase in the Milwaukee Public Schools tax levy:***

“The Milwaukee Public School Board, under the leadership of Peter Blewett, is once again prepared to slam Milwaukee taxpayers with a double digit property tax increase.

Blewett is ramming through a 2009 tax increase of 14.6%. For tax years 2006-2009, Blewett has increased tax levy spending by \$73.7 million. That’s an astonishing 34.4% increase. In that same period of time, the City of Milwaukee levy has increased 11.9%.

It’s important for the people of Milwaukee to know what President Blewett has not done to avoid this increase.

For years I have asked the School Board to work with me to change the state’s formula funding flaws so that large, double digit tax increases could be avoided. Most recently, both during the expansion of the Choice Program and in the heat of the State budget battle, Peter Blewett did nothing to end the funding flaw created by the School Choice Program.

Not only has President Blewett not acted to change the School Choice funding flaws, but he has also done nothing to change the state law that penalizes the Board for not raising spending to the maximum limit, as it did last year. Now tonight, I fully expect to hear President Blewett complain about the very funding formulas and spending laws he did nothing to change when he had the chance.

Milwaukee taxpayers deserve better.”